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[22750/514]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Christoph HILGERT

Serial No. : 10/006,597

Filed : December 4, 2001

For : **FLAT GASKET FOR A RECIPROCATING ENGINE OR
A DRIVEN MACHINE**

Examiner : To Be Assigned

Art Unit : To Be Assigned

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dated: 7/2/02

Signature: [Signature]

Richard L. Weyer (Reg. No. 22,490)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Kindly amend the above-captioned application before examination, as set
forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On the first page of the claims, first line, change "What is claimed is:"
to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--.

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1 to 16.

Please add the following new claims:

AT 19 -- 17. (New) A flat gasket for a reciprocating engine or a driven machine,
comprising: at least one metal sheet 0.05 to 0.5 mm thick which is provided with a
coating of an elastomer film at least on sides facing outward in at least one sealing area